

1918.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF

CLIFTON DARTMOUTH HARDNESS.

DARTMOUTH :

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ANNUAL REPORT
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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For 1918.

*To His Worship the Mayor and the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Olifton Dartmouth Hardness.*

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report upon the Health of the Inhabitants, and the Sanitary condition of the Borough. The Report also contains details of the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, as required by the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

The Town of Dartmouth is so situated that it is surrounded by hills on all sides with the exception of the River Frontage, in fact it is built on the sides of the hills, sloping down to the water, so that the natural slope gives a direct fall for the drainage from the houses to gravitate to the River into which the sewer pipes empty. The only difficulty is a low-lying portion of the town, which is reclaimed ground, and was made by filling in a creek where the level of the ground is somewhat below the tide level. This portion is liable to be flooded during

the high spring tides, when there is a large quantity of water coming down the valley from the hills, caused by heavy rains. This is overcome by collecting and pumping but occasionally the area is flooded.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants consists in the coaling of vessels coming into the harbour for coal, in engineering and small boat building, also a large number are employed on the Royal Naval College, none of which occupations are likely to have any deleterious influence on public health.

This year I have based the rates for the births and deaths upon the estimated population to the middle of the year 1915, viz.: 5,579 for death rate, and 6,251 for birth rate. Owing to the disturbance of the population due to the calling up of men for the war it will be difficult to adjust the number correctly until the next census.

The area of the Borough (exclusive of the area covered by water) is 1847 acres, and the density of the population per acre is 2.9.

The number of inhabited houses is 1,550. The average number of persons per house is 3.6. There is a natural decrease this year of 25, that is the excess of deaths over births. In normal times it is always an excess of births over deaths, but now the birth rate is being considerably affected by the absence of men called up for Service.

During the year 113 deaths have been registered, to which number 14 must be added, being deaths of persons who, though belonging to Dartmouth, have died away from the district; and 9 must be deducted, being persons who, though dying at Dartmouth belonged elsewhere, giving a net result of 118, the proper number of deaths among the inhabitants of the Borough; or an annual death rate of 21.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The causes of deaths are as follows:

Disease.		Male.	Female.
Whooping Cough ...	...	0	2
Influenza ...	...	6	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	7	7
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	...	0	2
Cancer ...	...	3	2
Meningitis ...	...	0	1

Disease.		Male.	Female.
Organic Heart Disease	...	2	6
Bronchitis	...	3	4
Pneumonia	...	0	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	..	2	2
Appendicitis	...	1	0
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		1	4
Congenital Debility	...	0	1
Violence (apart from Suicide)...		2	1
Other defined Diseases	...	15	23
Causes unknown	...	1	0

There were 18 deaths from infectious disease, viz.: Tuberculosis, 16; Whooping Cough, 2. The number of deaths in infants under one year of age is 3, giving an infantile mortality of 34.2 per 1,000 of registered births. 5 Inquests were held, all of which were accidental deaths.

88 births were registered—45 males, 43 females—of which number 3 were illegitimate, giving a birth rate of 14.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

27 cases of Infectious Disease were notified under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, viz.: Diptheria, 5; Erysipelas, 2; Measles, 10; Scarlet Fever, 10.

The Infectious Hospital has not been used during the year, there apparently having been no reason for removing any of the above cases. The Hospital is always in readiness to receive any case that may require removal from their surroundings.

19 cases of Tuberculosis have been notified under Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulation Act, 1912, and 16 deaths were registered. Each case was visited, and circulars giving instructions how to act in the matter by the patients and the occupants of the house has been distributed, and each case has, in accordance with the regulations, been notified to the County Medical Officer, and has been visited by the County Tuberculous Officer. The rooms in which the patients lived or died have been disinfected.

The scavenging is carried out by means of ash buckets placed outside the houses in the morning, the buckets being emptied into carts which go round the town. It is then carted

about three miles into the country and emptied on to the land. About six tons are removed every day. I still consider and strongly advocate a destructor placed on a suitable site not far out of the town would be more convenient and much more economical.

The various parts of the town has been constantly inspected during the year, and notices have been served upon owners and occupiers to abate nuisances and repair defects, but in an old town like Dartmouth many of the structural defects are very difficult, in fact, almost impossible to deal with: demolition being the only remedy.

The Bakehouses have been visited and inspected and notices served. There are no underground Bakehouses in the district.

There are no Common Lodging-Houses.

No offensive Trades are carried on.

The Schools have been inspected and found very efficient. There is no overcrowding since the New School has been built.

The Sanitary condition and Water Supply are very satisfactory. The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. F. J. Voisey) reports:— One new house drain has been constructed. No new houses have been built, but about fifty are required to accommodate the working classes. Twenty-six nuisances have been notified, inspected and abated. The sanitary arrangements of the Railway Station have been inspected and found clean and in good order. Twenty-two houses have been disinfected. The Slaughter Houses (five in number) have been visited and inspected; none found to be defective. Eleven visits were made to Butchers' Stalls, and 2,822lbs. of meat have been condemned as unfit for human food. (This was meat sent by the Government Authorities: its condition was decomposing, having been kept too long.)

Water Supply. During the year a portion of the main stream flowing down the valley has been piped. A weir and Settling Chamber has been constructed; also a new Pre Filter has been installed at the Pumping Station. A series of springs

along the line of new piping have been connected to the main line, which considerably augments the supply. A Bacterial Analysis of the water has been taken during the year, the result being very satisfactory.

The Milk Supply of the Town is very good. It is brought into the town from the surrounding farms, some of which are not in the district, and is distributed to the milk sellers who, in turn, supply it to their customers. The Milkshops, Dairies, and Cowsheds have been periodically visited and inspected and found to be very satisfactory.

Inspections have been made with regard to the exposure of food for sale. 25 Samples have been taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and sent to the Public Analyst, all of which have been passed by him as genuine, viz.: new milk, 12; butter, 4; jam, 2; tea, 2; cheese, 1; rice, 1; lard, 1; vinegar, 1. No case of adulteration has been discovered, and no prosecutions have been made.

The Slaughter Houses have been inspected and found satisfactory.

The administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Work Places, Workshops, and Home Work. Inspections of the workshops have been made during the year, and everything has been found satisfactory. No nuisances have been found, and all the premises meet with the requirements of the Act. No prosecutions have taken place during the year. No lists of out-workers have been sent during the year. No case of infectious disease have been traced to any of the workshops.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	No. of Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	12	...	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	10	...	0
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' Premises) ...	9	...	0
Total	31	...	0

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKHOPS, & WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	No. of Defects.				Number of Prosecutions.	
	Found.	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspect'r			
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts : —						
Want of cleanliness			}	
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary	}	insufficient	...	...
Accommoda-		unsuitable or defective..	...	...
tion.		not separate for sexes..	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts						
Illegal occupation of underground bake-						}
houses (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements				
for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Other Offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork)						
Total				

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.

Lists received from Employers sending once in the year :—

Wearing Apparel—	Lists. Contractors. Workmen		
Making, &c., cleaning and washing ...	0	0	0

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 3) at the end of the year.

Bakehouses	10
Tailors	6
Dressmakers	9
Plumbers and Painters	5
Builders and Carpenters	8
Printers	3
Aerated Water Works	1
Engineers	4
Other Works	27

Total Number of Workshops on Register 73

OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M.'s Inspector of Factories :—

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts (s. 133)	} Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector.	} Nil
Action taken in matters referred by		
H.M. Inspector as remediable under		
the Public Health Acts, but not under		
the Factory and Workshops Act (s. 5)		
Other	...	...
Underground Bakehouses (sec. 101) :—	...	...
Certificates granted during the year	...	...
In use at the end of the year	...	...

The Vaccination Returns for the year are as follows:

Successfully vaccinated	...	48
Insusceptible to vaccination	...	0
Conscientious objections...	...	47
Died unvaccinated	...	2
Unvaccinated under six months old	...	0
Unvaccinated over six months old	...	0
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	0
Removed out of the district	...	0

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I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. HARRIS, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1919.

